

Attorney's Docket No. 1018961-000068

Application No. 10/809,901

Page 2

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion and a main body portion, wherein said main body portion comprises a center layer formed of a first material, a surface layer formed of a second material, and an intermediate layer formed of a mixture of said first material and said second material, wherein said main body portion has a structure in which said center layer, said intermediate layer, and said surface layer are provided in this order from a center of said main body portion toward an exterior of said main body portion,  
wherein said first material is a Ni-Ti based alloy, and  
wherein said second material is a metallic material higher in rigidity than said Ni-Ti based alloy.

2. (Currently Amended) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said distal end portion is formed of said first material, and is continuous with a ~~central portion~~ said center layer of said main body portion.

3. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, comprising an intermediate portion located between said distal end portion and said main body portion, wherein said intermediate portion comprises a center layer formed of said first material, and a surface layer formed of a mixture of said first material and said second material.

4. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate layer formed of the mixture of said first material and said second material is decreased in the content of said first material toward said surface layer and increased in the content of said second material toward said surface layer.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said second material is a stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion, a main body portion, and an intermediate portion located between said distal end portion and said main body portion,

said intermediate portion comprises a center layer formed of a first material, and a surface layer formed of a mixture of said first material and a second material, said surface layer covering said center layer,

and wherein said surface layer is decreased in the content of said first material toward an outer surface of said intermediate portion and increased in the content of said second material toward the outer surface of said intermediate portion such that said surface layer has gradient physical properties in a radial direction.

Attorney's Docket No. 1018961-000068

Application No. 10/809,901

Page 4

9. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion and a main body portion, wherein said main body portion comprises a center layer formed of a first material, a surface layer formed of a second material, and an intermediate layer formed of a mixture of said first material and said second material,

wherein said main body portion has a structure in which said center layer, said intermediate layer, and said surface layer are provided in this order from a center of said main body portion toward an exterior of said main body portion,

wherein said intermediate layer is increased stepwise or gradually in the content of said first material toward said center layer, and

wherein said first material is a first metallic material, and said second material is a second metallic material higher in rigidity than said first metallic material, and said second metallic material is stainless steel.

10. (New) A guide wire according to claim 8, wherein said second material is a material higher in rigidity than said first material.

11. (New) A guide wire according to claim 8, wherein the content of the second material in said surface layer is increased stepwise or increased gradually toward the outer surface of said intermediate portion.